

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09365 291605Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9255
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9365

EXDIS

RAMSTIN FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: DISSIDENT ROUNDUP

REF: A) MOSCOW 9303 (NOTAL), (B) MOSCOW 6365 (NOTAL),
(C) MOSCOW 6741 (NOTAL)

1. CSCE OBSERVATION GROUP MEMBER VLADIMIR SLEPAK TELLS US THAT HE IS SOMEWHAT HEARTENED BY THE SOVIET DECISION TO TRY ORLOV ON THE RELATIVELY MINOR CHARGES OF DEFAMING THE SOVIET STATE (REF A). HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD EXPECTED ORLOV TO BE TRIED UNDER A FAR MORE SERIOUS CHARGE. HE ATTRIBUTES THE SOVIET DECISION TO PICK THE LESSER CHARGE TO A DESIRE TO AVOID A CONTINUATION OF ANTI-SOVIET WESTERN COMMENT ON THE ORLOV CASE. SLEPAK BELIEVES THAT THE RECENT LONDON MEETING WHICH JOHN MCDONALD (THE LAWYER WHOM THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT ADMIT TO DEFEND ORLOV) HAD ORGANIZED HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN THIS RESPECT.

2. COMMENTING ON THE RECENT SOVIET DECISION TO ALLOW TWO PROMINENT REFUSENIKS (AZBEL AND FAYN) TO EMIGRATE, SLEPAK
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SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS OF COURSE PLEASED, HE DID NOT CONSIDER THIS TO BE THE START OF A NEW TREND. RATHER, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE BEFORE, THE AUTHORITIES OCCASIONALLY WILL LET OUT ONE OR ANOTHER PROMINENT REFUSENIK. SLEPAK ADDED THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, NO OTHER MOSCOW REFUSENIK HAD RECEIVED ANY HINT OF A FAVORABLE DECISION ON HIS CASE IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

3. SLEPAK SAYS THAT HIS OWN HARASSMENT AND SURVEILLANCE HAS DECREASED IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. NEITHER HE NOR HIS SON HAVE HAD ANY BRUSHES WITH THE POLICE SINCE THE INCIDENT IN WHICH THEY WERE REFUSED ENTRANCE TO EMBOFF PRESEL'S APARTMENT (REF B). SLEPAK ATTRIBUTES THIS TO A DESIRE BY THE SOVIETS NOT TO MAKE WAVES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

4. WE HAVE HEARD INDIRECTLY THAT GENERAL GRIGORENKO'S HEALTH IS IMPROVING SOMEWHAT BUT THAT HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE IS NOT. (REF C). AS ONE OF THE FEW DISSIDENT LEADERS STILL AT LIBERTY, GRIGORENKO REPORTEDLY FINDS HIMSELF CONSTANTLY BESIEGED BY PEOPLE SEEKING HIS ADVICE. HE REPORTEDLY STILL IS THINKING OF APPLYING FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT HIS SON IN THE U.S. HIS SENSE OF OBLIGATION TO THE MOVEMENT IN WHICH HE HAS PLAYED SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART, HOWEVER, MAY WELL RESULT IN HIS PUTTING OFF THIS PLAN AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER BELGRADE.
MATLOCK

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